Policy on Computer Software Export, Software Development and Training announced in Dec., 1986, a liberal framework for software export has been provided through concessional customs duty on imports, grant of Cash Compensatory Support, allocation of foreign exchange for market promotion abroad, speedy single-window clearance for meeting foreign exchange requirements of imports for computer software export etc. The software exporters are also being encouraged to establish one to one contracts with buyers and project their capabilities in software shows|exhibitions|presentations abroad.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A target of Rs. 300 crores has been fixed for export of computer software by the end of the 7th Five Year Plan.

(d) Export of computer software which was Rs. 115 crores during 1988-89 is expected to rise to Rs. 175 crores during 1989-90.

Excise rebate to mini cement plants

2923. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry have given excise rebate to the mini cement plants and if so, from which date and how many mini plants in the country are entitled to get rebate due to this decision;

(b) whether it is a fact that some mini cement plants are not getting excise rebate facility due to non-availability of licence capacity certificates from the Development Commissioner of cement;

(c) whether his Ministry have since issued orders to the Development Commissioner for grant of certificates for clearing concessions by the mini cement plants in excise duty;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) if not, by when his Ministry will communicate these orders to the Development Commissioner for Cement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) In the 1989 budget a concessional rate of duty at Rs. 115 per tonne was prescribed for vertical shaft kiln cement plants with total licenced capacity not exceeding 200 tonnes per day. With effect from 27th April, 1989 this concession was extended to rotary kiln cement plants of the same capacity also. Now this concession is available to cement factories with licenced capacity, as certified by the Director of Industries in the State Government or the Development Commissioner for Cement in the Ministry of Industry, not exceeding 200 tonnes per day. Information in respect of the number of plants entitled to this concession is being compiled and shall be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) No representation has been received in this Ministry from the cement factories regarding the non-availability of the licenced capacity certificate from the Development Commissioner for Cement.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Maharashtra Government's proposal for Development Boards in the State

2924. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government has recently sent a proposal in regard to Vidarbha and for the rest of Maharashtra regarding fomation of Development Boards under article 371 (2) of the Constitution to the Central Government;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that recently an announcement was made by the Prime Minister for the formation of the above Boards very soon; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to implement this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV):

(a) to (d) A draft scheme for giving effect to the provisions of article 371(2) of the Constitution was received from the Government of Maharashtra in February, 1989. It comprised of a draft order to be made by the President under the said provisions and a draft order to be issued by the Governor in pursuance thereof, providing *inter-alia* for the establishment of Development Boards for Vidarbha, Marathwada and the rest of Maharashtra. After examination, the Government of Maharashtra have been requested to consider recasting the Governor's order keeping in view the requirements of the State and the legal opinion.

Closing of Central Rengers' Training College, Chandrapur

2925. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is is a fact that the Central Rangers' Training College of Chandrapur (Maharashtra) is going to be closed from February, 1990;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the staff working in the College would be given alternative jobs; and

(d) if so, what are details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) and (b) Central Forest Rangers College, Chandrapur is going to be closed from 31st March, 1990 as a result of decision of Government of India to hand over the responsibility of the training of forest rangers to the State Governments.

(c) and (d) The staff working in the college at present will be suitably absorbed in Control|State Governments.

Deputation from Army to Assam Rifles

2926. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of identical representations have been received from Jawans and officers of Assam Rifles protesting against the system of deputation from Army to Assam Rifles and demanding to end this system; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Representations, purporting to be from Jawans and officers of Assam Rifles have been received.

(b) The system of deputation of army officers in the Assam Rifles was introduced by the Government at the time of creation of Assam Rifles with a view to meeting the special situation prevailing in the North—East, where the Assam Rifles functions under the operational control of the Army. The Government considers it necessary to continue the system of deputation of army officers in Assam Rifles for operational reasons, whereby the Assam Rifles is officered by a mix of cardre officers and by army officers on deputation.

Letter sent by the Animal Husbandry Employees' Union, Port Blair

2927. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a letter dated the 15th July, 1989 has been received by him from the Animal Husbandry Employees' Union, Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands); and

(b) if so, what are the demands put forward therein and the action taken by Government thereon?